May 23, 2008

Cobalt Partners Proposes New USPS Processing Center Site in Oak Creek

Oak Creek, Wis. – Cobalt Partners is proposing a site for the development of a new state-of-the-art mail processing and distribution center for the United States Postal Service in Oak Creek, Wis. In conjunction with Cobalt's proposal, the Postal Service announced the purchase of the 64-acre parcel in Milwaukee County.

The approximately 820,000-square-foot center would be built at the southwest corner of College and Pennsylvania Avenues. The building would house all mail processing and distribution operations for southeastern Wisconsin, including those currently located within the Postal Service's main facility at 345 W. St. Paul Ave. in downtown Milwaukee.

The project would be a significant economic development victory for Oak Creek and the region, Mayor Richard Bolender said.

"We welcome the opportunity to work with Cobalt Partners and the Postal Service toward bringing this new facility to our city," Bolender said. "Oak Creek prides itself on having a diverse and healthy economy, and we work hard to ensure that we have the infrastructure to accommodate new corporate citizens such as the Postal Service. This project can be an economic engine that will help create more jobs and opportunities in our area."

The proposed building would be a modern light industrial-distribution facility. Cobalt Partners expects to submit preliminary plans for the development to the city in early June and plans public informational meetings shortly afterward.

"This is a win for Milwaukee County," Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker said. "We are very pleased that, in a competitive selection process, the Postal Service chose to invest in Milwaukee County. This project will benefit all of southeastern Wisconsin by helping the Postal Service streamline and modernize its operations. Most of all, we appreciate that the Postal Service recognizes that Milwaukee County offers two elements key to conducting business: a strategic location and, as important, a highly skilled workforce."

"The Postal Service conducted an intensive multi-year search that considered many sites across southeastern Wisconsin," said Scott Yauck, a Principal of Cobalt Partners. The Oak Creek site has ready freeway and airport access, sufficient space for the new building and is close to Milwaukee, he said. The latter consideration was important for logistics, transportation costs and employee convenience.

"We are thrilled to be working with the Postal Service on a project that will have so many benefits, both locally and regionally." Yauck said. "The Postal Service is a good neighbor and a stable long-term employer."

Cobalt Partners is a Milwaukee-based real estate development firm that is actively involved in several significant projects in southeastern Wisconsin and Illinois. In the immediate area, Cobalt Partners is actively working with the City of Cudahy on redeveloping a prominent 25-acre parcel bordered by I-794 and Layton and Pennsylvania avenues.